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LETTERS.

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1871



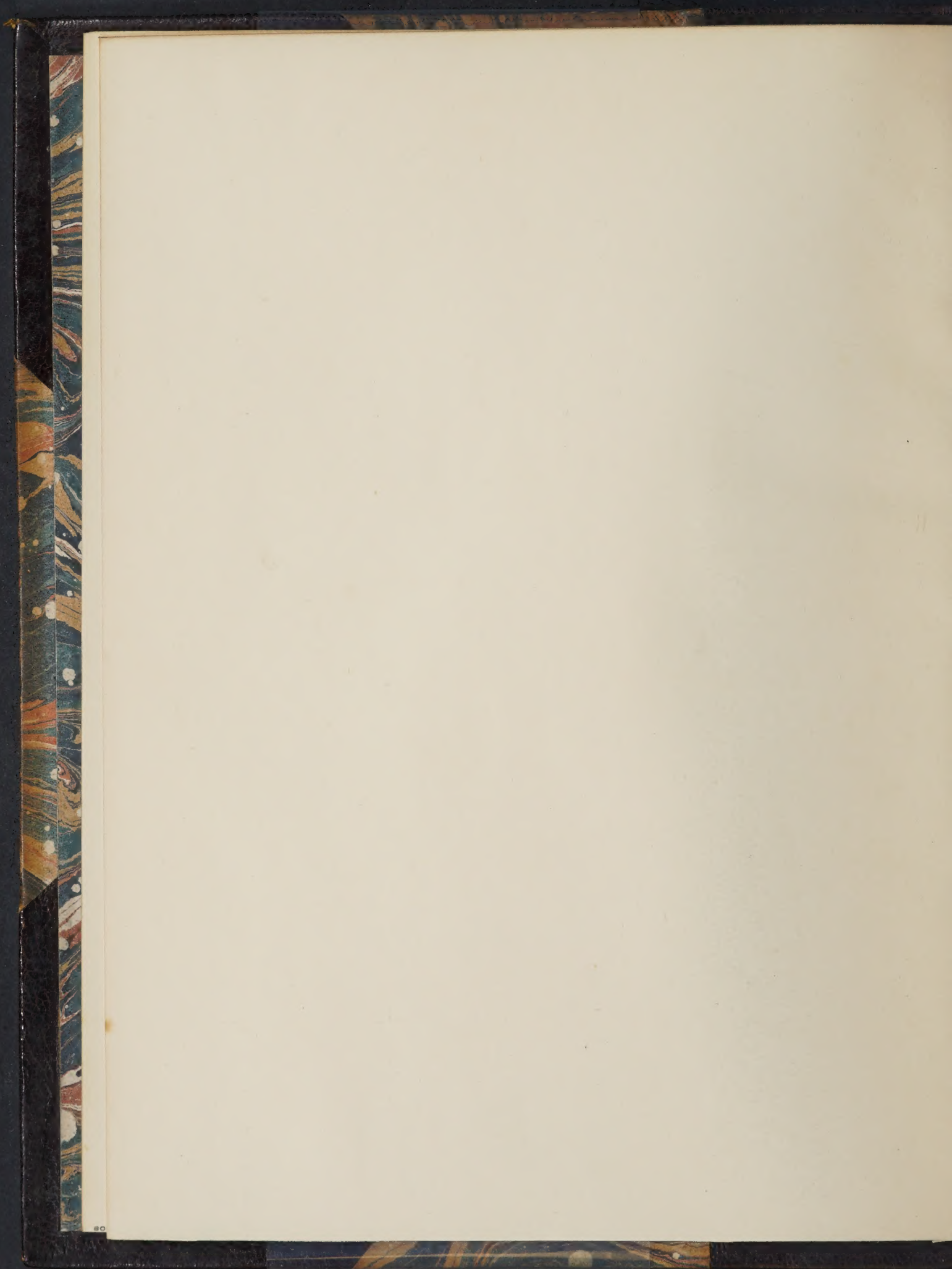












Historical Letters,

Temp. Henry VIII.



N I N E

Historical Letters

OF THE

REIGN OF HENRY VIII :

WRITTEN BY

REGINALD POLE, THOMAS CROMWELL, MICHAEL
THROCKMORTON, AND THOMAS STARKEY.

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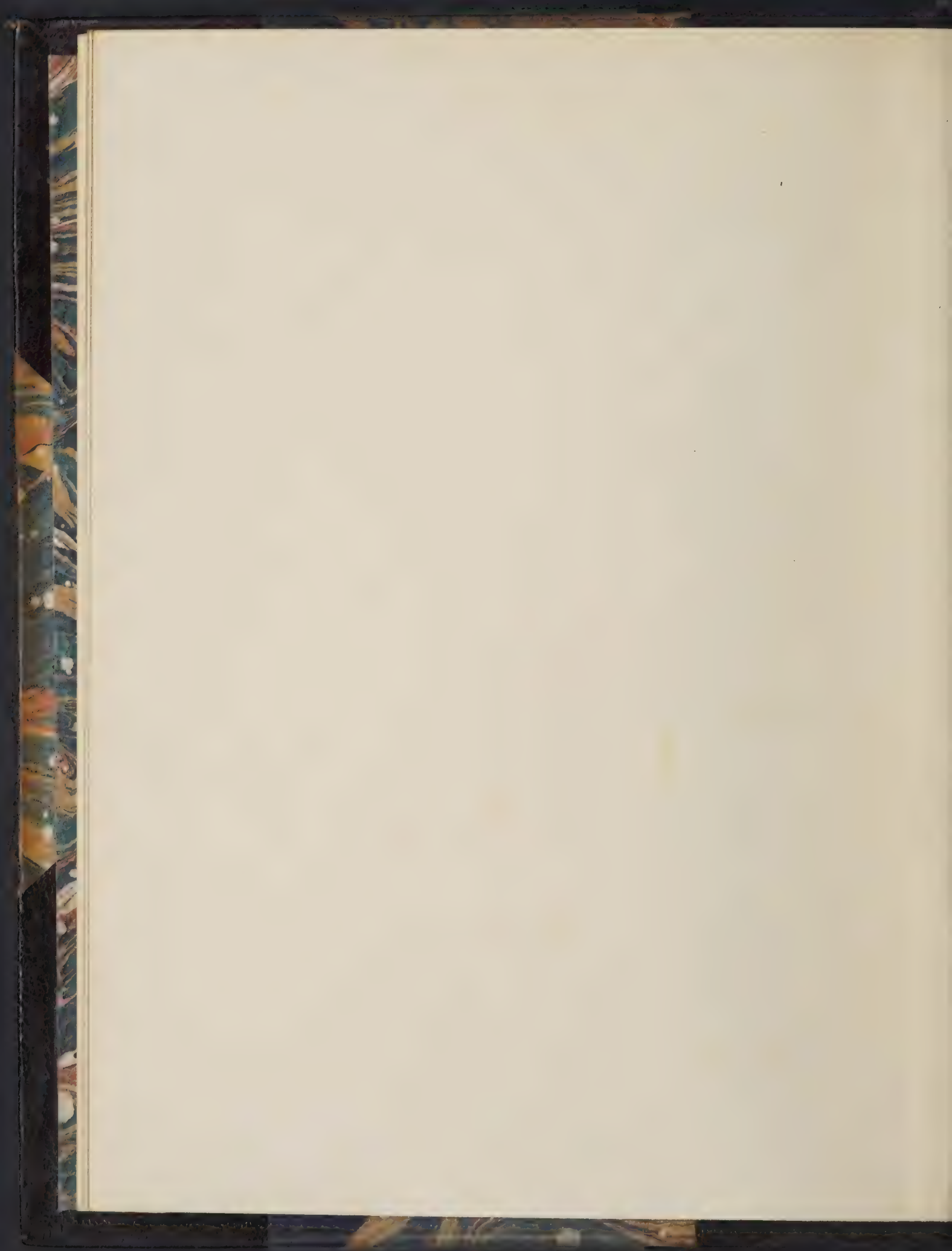


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1871.



INTRODUCTION.

THE originals of these Letters remained for between forty and fifty years in my possession. I obtained them from the late Mr. Thomas Thorpe, the well-known and highly respectable bookseller, who, I understood, had rescued them when the cellars of Somerset House were emptied. I gave him for them and a few other documents, in money, autographs, and printed volumes, a sum that made a considerable inroad upon the portion of my income I could then apply to such acquisitions.

After the lapse of some time, I placed them in the hands of Lord Macaulay; and I showed them more than once to my late friend John Bruce, the most accurate historical scholar I ever knew. I also lent them to Mr. Froude; but, I apprehend, not until after he had concluded the earlier volumes of his great undertaking. All three were of opinion that they had belonged to a series, other portions of which might exist in the Record Office, in the Museum, or, perhaps, in the collection of the late Mr. Sharon Turner. I, therefore, handed them over, some six or eight years ago, to the late Sir Francis Palgrave, then Deputy-Keeper at the Rolls Chapel, as a public present, and he acknowledged the receipt by the usual printed letter of thanks. If I recollect rightly, I had already, and long previously, with the friendly and most competent aid of Mr. W. H. Black, compared them with the handwriting of Cardinal Pole, in a corrected copy of his celebrated "Book", then preserved in Chancery Lane.

Since the date of my gift I have seen and heard nothing of

the originals ; but I presume that they have been duly classed with other documents of the same period and character. Having myself made transcripts of them soon after they came into my possession, I have now printed a few copies, because they certainly throw new and important light upon transactions in the reign of Henry VIII, relating to the great question of Church Supremacy, as well as upon the character and talents of Cardinal Pole: his confused and elaborate style of English composition, with its difficulties and uncertainty of punctuation, may be thought, even from these specimens, to contrast well with the perspicuity of Cromwell, and especially of Starkey. I have not attempted arrangement ; but some of the documents are dated, and others seem to require assistance from similar and intervening letters which I have not seen. I cannot trace those here printed in Strype, Phillips, or elsewhere.

It is my intention, should life and health allow it, to continue the *Brown Series*, of which the present is the first number, by other tracts belonging to the classes of history and biography, from Manuscripts chiefly in my own hands ; and independently of my ordinary Reprints, which now amount to not very far from a hundred different productions. My *Brown Series* will be rather more expensively got up, upon thicker paper, and in a somewhat larger type ; but I shall continue to divide the cost between fifty subscribers, and the expense of each number (if my friends see fit) may be added to the account already open between us. Such as do not approve of this new undertaking can, of course, return the tract to me (with all due care and speed), and it shall not be charged against them. I have abundant materials before me, illustrative of the career of some of the greatest names in our history and literature, such as Lord Surrey, Lord Leicester, Sir Francis Bryan, Lord Bacon, the Earl of Essex, the first Baron Ellesmere, the Duke of Buckingham, etc.

J. P. C.



Historical Letters.

CARDINAL POLE TO HENRY VIII.

Indorsed "from pole the xxvijth day of May".

Addressed "To the Kynges Grace".

PLEASETH it your grace to understond that wheras, furst by master Sterkys letters, chapleyn to yo^r grace, and afterward by master secretery confyrmeng the same, I was advertysed that it was yo^r grace pleasure I shold by my wryting open to yo^r grace my sentence concernyng the superiorite of the pope in the churche, wyth other artycles belongyng to the same, adoyning therunto such reasons as dyd most induce me to enclyne to that parte I toke; assureng me the same shold be most acceptable to yo^r grace yf, w^tought affection of oney parte, or respecte other but only of the very truthe, I shold playnly sett furth my sentence. I, therefore, gevyng credence to thys enform-

ation and obeyng to yo^r plesure, have, wyth all playnes, comprised in a boke my hole sentence, wych I have sent to yo^r grace by thys bearar.

And now how it schall fatysfye yo^r grace that I have wryton, I thynke he knoweth only *in cuius manu sunt corda regum*; for thys knolech I wyll not gyve to yo^r grace, nor to no man, how grete so ever he be, in yerth, to know somuch of hys owne mynd afore he here the truthe how he shal be moved w^tall : but god only hath thys knolech, wych at hys plesure ys to gyve the lyght of hys spyrite, more or lesse contentyd wyth the trothe : wherfore to hys goodnes now all my prayere shal be, in whom ys all my trust for the knolech of the truthe to be perswaded to yo^r grace.

And as tochyng my purpose in the dyscorse of my boke to the manyfestyng of my sentence, yf it please yo^r grace to have furder enformation, I have geven instructions therof to thys bearar, to whom it may please yo^r grace to gyve credence. Thus prayng to almyghty god to preserve yo^r grace in highe honore, to the contentation of yo^r most noble hartys desyre, the same agreyng to hys plesure. Writen at Venyce the xxvijth day of may.

By yo^r faythfull servant

RAYNOLD POLE.

CARDINAL POLE TO CROMWELL.

*Indorsed "Pole". Addressed "To my lord Prevye
Seale".*

MY lorde, a fewe dayes past I wrote letters unto yowe, and for the more assuryd conveyance of them to yo^r honds, I sent them to the Kynges embassatours in the frenche cowrte, who by no meanes could be persuadyd to meddyll wythe them, or to take ony charge for to sende them; the whiche semethe to me a straunge maner off handleng them selffe in thatt rome, thatt wold refuse ony letter thatt ys wrytton to onye of the Kynges cowncell: wherein whatt know they thatt maye be contayned thatt myght make for the Kynges purpofes for to knowe, whiche myght happen sometyme in those letters thatt cam from the Kynges mortall professyd enemyes, and moche foner in those letters thatt cam from hym, whiche, howe so ever he be peverselye taken, doyth, nother in dede nor word, and moche lesse in mynd, showe suche a personne: butt yff this be a new fashion in

handlyng pryncys affayres off most assured and faythfull hartes as may be founde in nature, reserveng theyr dewtye to god, by all meanes to provoke them to chaunge theyr loveng myndes to the kyng, as such wayes I have in practyse to be moche used wyth me, howe ytt may be profytable to ony prynce to have hys affayres handeled after suche a manier, I confesse to be ignoraunte: and in the ende procedyng thys waye, I knowe well they that use thys be ignoraunte whatt the conclusyon shall be, whiche ys in the pleasur off god, and nott in the devyses of man.

As toucheng my selff and my mynd to the kyng, after suche demonstracyons as I know dyvers wayes to my undoyng ys made by the kynges agents, I know nott thatt mynd yn yearthe that could abyde other to speake afterward off his honour or wealthe, to whome lyke had bene showed. And yff my love towarde hym were nott holpe above nature, I knowe well I could nott do ytt: hytherto I knowe I owe no other mynde to the kyng then the lawe, other off nature or god, wold bynde me to have other to my prynce or father yn lyke cause: feare hym, I confesse to you, I do nott, nor never dyd, and moche lesse yn this cause, yff he had all the power off the hole worlde in hys hond: love hym I doo, and thatt I wold not

doubt, besyde all other assured tokyns, to shew also in the selffe same cause, wherein he takyth me for hys enemye, which ys in my legacyon att this tyme; and the same hys grace att hys pleasur may see, yff the bottome thereof were explycate: wherein whatt ways myght be takyn, yff yow reade those letters thatt be joyned wyth thyse which I fend by a mesfyngier off thys Cyttye, and be the same thatt the Embassatours refusyd to fend, there yow shall knowe yow shall make whatt answer yow shall thynke beste, knoweng the kynges pleasur. And whither yow answer or no, or howe so ever yow answer, whatt mynd I have borne ever to the Kyng, this my dead shall beste testyfye; which, yff ytt be reject, whatt conclusion shall follow thereof, yff ytt be nott to the Kynges pleasur, I shall by thys act alwayes, both afore god and man, ever be justyfied, The reaste I put to god the gouernour off all, to whome I commytt yowe. From liege the xxix^{ti} off Maij. M.D.xxxvij.

REG. CARD. POLUS LEGATUS.



CARDINAL POLE TO CROMWELL.

Indorsed "R. Pole xvj februar". Addressed "To my lorde prevye Seale".

MY lorde, yff I had no other regarde in respost to yo^r lettours of the xx^{ti} off Januarij, thatt I received by thatt messengier thatt brought yowe myn, butt to make answer to fuche thynges as yowe there very holelye laye to my charge, fuerly att this tyme I wold not a wrytton; for there ys nothyng yn yo^r lettour, besyde a greate pompe and noyse off words, thatt requyer answer, butt I have att large answered yow in my former lettres, whereunto afore you dyd repleye, and showe thatt my reasonys doyth nott justyfie my cause: me semeth to lyke apposytions there nedyd no other answer then I had made afore; butt bycause the bearer hereoff, whiche departyng as my messyngier retournythe, as me semethe, more then yo^{rs}, mytigateng as moche as he can all yo^r hole dyscourse in yo^r lettre, which to me semethe farre owt off thatt waye thatt yow shold use in lyke controverfyes as ys be-

twene yow and me at thys tyme : therefore I wyll faye no more, butt that I marvayle moche, the more gentyllyer in all my wrytinge I ordre my ſelfe, thatt the more hotter yow be in anfwer; rehearfing nevertheleffe nothyng butt thatt ys answered to afore, yow ever pretend yo^r dewtye to the kyng to condemne me for wrytyng my boke in fuche manier, and I ever pretend my dutie and love to the kyng, that caufyd me to uſe thatt manier: butt to ſay that my wrytyng can be mayntayned w^t every mannes interpretacion I wyll nott, for ſo the goſpell of god can nott be mayntayned; butt who ſo wyll interpretate my booke as the boke yt ſelfe doythe ſhowe to be the authours mynd, I knowe, both afore god and man, ytt ys able to mayntayne ytt ſelfe. Yow ſaye ytt ſhold be to moche to my ſhame ytt ſhuld be putt forth, and I can graunt no more to yow thatt make yo^r ſelfe my adverfarye in thys cauſe, butt yff yow wyll revenge yo^r ſelfe on me, to gyve yowe leave to make me have this ſhame, putt owt the boke when you wyll: I venture my name therein, yff there be no other damage butt the loſſe of my fame.

The conclufyon ys this : by wrytyng me ſemethe we other doo nott, or wyll nott, underſtond one another, ſo thatt to repplye more in this manier I ſe no

fruyte. In the lettre the confell wrythethe, wherein ys yo^r subfcription, yow ſhow thatt yff I had bene pryvate, comyng w^tout other commyffyon as off myn owne hedd in to flaunders, the Kynges Grace was content to fend certayn learnyd perſonnys for ſatysfyeng of all partes in thyſe controverſyes in the religion: touchyng thys, yff hys grace were content afore, I ſee nott butt my mynd beyng the ſame thatt was afore, bothe toward hys grace and in the opinions, that he myght moche ſoner be content now, whereto I ſhall be prompt.

And gladdle I wold, yff, ytt myght be thatt yowe myght be one off them for yow, pretending that affection to the kynges honour thatt I no leſſe, and wythe the greattyſt, do alſo beare to hys grace. yff we ſpake to gyther, peradventure ſome better waye myght be taken by preſent commication then can euer be brought to paſſe by wrytyng: wherein there wyll never be that ende thatt bothe wold deſyer: whatt ys the effect of my legation yow ſhall underſtond by my letres wrytton to the counfell. Thatt that ys beſt for the welth off the kyng and the realme, that god I beſech hys mercye ſend, and thus fare ye well. Wrytton att Rome the xvjth off februarye.

R. POLE CARD. LEG.

CARDINAL POLE TO CROMWELL.

Indorsed "Reynold Pole from Padoa 27th day of October". Addressed "To the Ryght Honorabul Mayster Cromwell, Secretory to the kyngys hyghnes".

RIGHT wurshipfull sir, In my hartiest maner I commend me unto you. And wheras I have bene advertysed, by my lord my brothers lettres directyd unto me, of the coumfortable relation made by yow, specyfieng the contynuaunce of the kinges graciose favors unto me, albeit I am well assured that, nother in word nor in dede, I never deservyd otherwise, nor never, I trust, shall; yet the tyme beyng such, and the occurrents w^tall wherby I myght feare some maner of alienation, to be put ougt of all dought by the authoryte of yo^r worde, to the wych I do give all dewe confidence, and utterly to be confyrmed in the hope throf, wych hath bene ever my specyall desyre and singulare coumforte to have thys, I can not butt accept for a gret syngulare plesure, and acknolech the same for

fuch a benefytt as few of my frendes could a geven me befyde. Surely, I know none whose wordes myght a profytt fo much, to the very acquyeting of my mynd, as thys yo^r relation hath don unto me; for the wych I accompte myself moſt beholdyng unto yow. Wherby you have fo bolded me that, notwithstanding myne inhabylyte in deſerving thys yo^r kyndnes alre dy ſhowed, yet I take upon me to deſyre yow a gretter pleyſure, wych ſhal be thys: y^t as of yo^r owne mere goodnes toward me, above all myne expectation, yow have geven me thys comforte to affure me of the kynges grace favoure; fo, for the better conſirmation therof, at myn extreme inſtance it may pleaſe yow to aſſartayne hys hyghnes of my ſervifable and prompte mynd to do him ſervice at all tyme; wych, nexte unto god, I take god to record, I have borne, and ever ſhall beare, toward hys grace accordyng to my moſt bownden debte: wherof when it ſhall pleaſe hys grace to take experiens, I truſt god, that ever hath mayntayned this mynd yn me, ſhall ſo furder all thoſe purpoſes that I ſhall take in hond in his ſervice, that both they y^t putteth hys grace yn mynd ſhall never have occaſion therby to repente, but rather have honor therby, and hys grace ſpecyall comforte, as a prynce may take

comfort of hys owne worke; for so I cownte that so ever good ys yn me, next unto god, to proceed of hys grace liberalyte showed in myn education, and by his goodnes to be planted. Wherof, yf the frute seme so swete unto me, that I testyfie god, for all the promotions the kyng ever gave to ony other, I wold not chaunge thys on benefytt, wheryn I take more plesure then I schold yn all that may be geven besyde, yf hys grace dyd but tast and take som proffe thereof, but parte of that coumforte schold redounde to hym, beyng such an authore therof I can never beleve otherwyse; and all so gyve them thanks that wer the motyoners therof. Wheryn I can sey no more, but pray all myghte god to send some good oportunte, who ever have yow in hys bleffyd kepyng. Wryton At padoa the xxviijth of octobre.

Y^r affuredly bownd,

RAYNOLD POLE.



CARDINAL POLE TO CROMWELL.

*Indorsed "Pole". Addressed "To my lord prevye
Seale".*



Y lorde. Yff afore tyme ytt could nott be so fuerlye and clerely perceived what affection I have ever borne to the Kyngs honour and wealth, which in my hole lyffe never gave the leaste occasion whye any man shuld thynk but wyth them that tendered the same moſte I myght chyfelye be nomberyd, yff my dedes were truelye and indyfferentlye examenyd; butt howe ſo ever ytt be, yff any deade, afore perverslye interpretate, myght reyfſt any ſcrupell to furmyſe the contrarye, fuerlye thiſe letters thatt I wryght nowe, as the tyme and caſe requyreth, beryng thatt tenour, as in readyng yow ſhall perceyve to be ſufficyent, nott onelye to abolyshe all former doubts, ſhoweng them to be perverslye furmyſed, butt to make clere thatt a more conſtaunt and ſtable mynd in obſervaunce off a prynce hathe nott be founde, nother in ſubject nor other perſonne beſyde. And the cauſe hereoff ys,

thatt there never happened lyke occafyon as thys ys
thatt caufyth me nowe to wryghte, wherebye my
mynde myght be fo well knowen: which occafyon ys
gyven off the Kyngs part under thys manner, thatt
he procureth agaynst me by fuche meanes to myn
undoyng, as was never hard off the lyke in chryften-
dome agaynst ony thatt bare thatt perfonne thatt I
do att thys tyme: yff my mynd, after all thys, re-
mayne ftable to procure all thyng thatt may be to
hys honour and wealthe, as ever I have profeffyd
afore tyme, what can be more fuerer tokyn off a
depe and a profound grounded love and affection?
Whither I do fo I shall afterwards show, yff I furft
declare to hym thatt knoweth ytt beft the Kyngs act
agaynst me, to the entent yow may knowe, yff I after
thatt remayne in myn old eftate off obftenaunce, ytt
ys nott for ignoraunce thatt I knowe nott whatt ys
machynate agaynst me.

And fuerlye, though I knewe afore, bothe by yo^r
letters and other, in whatt difpleafure the Kyng had
me, wythe out the leaſte cauſe ſhewed off my part, I
take god and my conſcyence to judge: whiche thyng,
yff I had borne butt a meane affection, myght a bene
fufficyent to alyenate alſo my mynd from thence, where
I ſawe whatt ſo ever I dyd for the beſte to be ever ac-

cepted in the worst part: butt thys I wyll nott have nowe take for ony proffe of my mynd, but to procede off the Kynges dyspleasure toward me. The lesse I knewe the cause to be, the further I was from all imagination to suspectt thatt hys grace shuld be so incensyd agaynst my personne, thatt, for to have me in hys honds, he wold be content to breake and vyolate bothe godds lawe and mannys, to dyscours all commercement betwene contrye and contrye, betwene man and man: thys I wold never a thought, butt fyndyng the same to be so in dede, I could nott butt fynde howe hys grace was bent w'all to my utter undoyng; agaynst the whiche, yff I remayned in myn old purpose to procure hys wealth and honour, he thatt wyll seke other proffes after thys, or wyll not be content wyth thys declaration of a mannys mynde, he declareth wyth all that wyth no proffe he wyll be content, but wyll have one hys enemye whether he wyll or no.

And off thys mynd off the Kyng toward me, I had furst knowledge att my arryvenge in fraunce; off the which, to showe yow the furst mocyon off my mynde herin, I was more ashamed to here for the compashion I had to the Kynges honour, then moved by ony indignation thatt I, comyng nott onelye as imbassatour, butt

as legate, in the highest sort of embassages that ys used amongst chrysten prynces, a prynce of honour, shuld desyer off an nother prynce off lyke honour, betraye thyne embassatour, betraye the legate, and gyve hym in to myn embassatours hondes, to be brought unto me. This was the dyshonorable request, as I understond, off the kyng, whiche, as I fayde afore, to me fuerlye regardyng myn owne part, I promysse yow, was no greate dyspleasure, but rather, yff I shall say truthe, I toke pleasur herein, and sayd forthwyth to my company thatt I never felt my selffe in full posscession to be a cardynall as when I hard those tydyngs; wherebye ytt pleasyd god to send lyke fortune unto me, as he dyd to those hedds of the churche whose personnes the Cardynalls do represent, which was to be persecutyd mooste of them, whose wealthe they laboured for most busylye: in thys case lyved the appostells, and the same nowe beyng happened to me afore, I promesse, I felt no dyspleasur, butt rather gladd thereof; specyally confyderyng herebye I had the better occasion to declare and justyfye my mynde more then ever I had afore, which was ever my mynd; butt touchyng the thyng, yff we had no other religioun, but lyved as paganyes and infydells, yet *Ius gentium* shold so

teache us: whatt demaund thys was the lawe off Nature alonelye myght declare, howe abhomynable ytt were to graunt unto such a request, and no lesse to defyer ytt.

Thys I rehearse nowe to thys entent, thatt yow myght the foner perceve, thatt yff there had bene butt one spark off a mynd alyenate to the kyng, thys were able to sett the fame in such a fyer, thatt furst confydereng how all regarde of honour was sett a part, and the law that mayntaynyth the commercement betwene man purposyd to be vyolate, so ytt myght torne to myn undoyng. Furst off all off my part I shuld abstayne from all commercement wyth thatt part, other by word wrytyng or deade. Secondarylye procure by all honest wayes, yff I wold nott be dyshonest, to repaye this malignytie to the mooste damage I could devyse, toward them off whose malygne mynde toward me I had so greate experyence.

And yett, after all thys, furst of all yow may se forthwyth, by wrytyng att thys tyme, I do nott abstayne from the furst act to practyse and entreate wyth them thatt hath bene authours hereoff, and to practys yett to hys honour and wealth, which wold utterlye extynguyshe both in me. And yff I be

hard herein to putt the fame also in execution, which thyng though I do fuerlye off myn owne purpofe and mynd, yett fome occafion hereoff, how ytt comyth otherwyfe I wyll not denye nor kepe clofe, which ys this: that where as the bufhop of Verona thatt was fent off me to the frenche coorte to yntymate thofe affayres thatt, for the wealth off chryftendome, the Pope had commytted unto me, to entreate with hys Majeftye, in hys retourne paffyng Abvyll, where were lodgyd my lord off wyncheftre, and Mr Bryan; where as he could nott butt greatlye mervyll off thys act of the kyng towarde me, my hole legation purpofyng no other butt hys honour and wealthe, and defyereng therefore to conferre the fame with the embaffatours for better declaration off the truthe off the mattiers to be knowen as they were, my lord off wyncheftre and Mr Bryan both abftayning, for refpect, from all communication, yett fendyng unto hym theyr Secretarye, after the byffhop had in parte declared the effect off my legacye thatt touchyd in ony part the kyng, ytt femed to be open to bothe partyes, thatt all the kyng had done agaynft me was off the finiftre and falfe report off other thatt, by falfe conjecture off thyngs they knew nott, had yll enfourmed the kyng off my purpofe in comyng to

those parties: which the Secretarye thought, onys clered and declaryd other by letters or messyngers, the kyng wold tourne hys mynde, as hys grace sawe the dedes to justyfy them selffe. Thys the buffhop of Verona, at hys retourne, showed me, which I acceptyd in thatt part to be trewe also, that all cam off yll enformacyon, and thatt hys grace, beyng asseyntayned off my mynd as ytt ys, and ever hath, ytt were not unpossyble in some part to knowlege rather myn gratytude then to machynate ony thing contrarye.

And thatt ytt myght be so knowen for all partes ytt can nott be butt well; butt, as I showed the buffhop by letters, I had attemptyd often the same, butt all could nott prevayle by messengiers I had sent often for that purpose could never be admytted to have audyence off the Kyng. And, wythoute one of thise wayes were found, there could no conclusyon be had in thise mattiers; wherein reafonyng with hym, I asked yff for the love and servyce that ever he hathe borne to the kyng, and showed in dede when he was in that place where hys servyce myght be in steade to the kyng, and love also he hathe ever to me, haveng assured knowledge of all myn affayres and purpofys,

nott onely thyse laft, but all fynyth my departyng from the realme, whither he could be content, the kynges pleafure knowen, to acquyete the kynges mynde in this behalf by goyng to hys grace, and enfourmeng hym off the hole? wherein, afore god, he fhuld do a dede moſte charytable, wherein alſo I dyd alledge unto hym for to bynd hym wyth all, bycauſe, after ſuch demonſtracyon off the kynges mynd made unto me, fewe men wold be content to praſtyſe w^t hys grace yn ony thyng belongeng unto me.

For thyſe cauſe I dyd rehearce the mo thynges to enduce hym hereunto; and amongſt other thys cheffelye, the chieffe purpoſe of his comeng wythe me, which afore god was this: that the pope entending by all meanes off benygnytie to praſtyſe wyth the kyng, and wyth hys ſanctytie alſo devyſeng for a mete inſtrument betwene both, yff my perſonne for this degre newlye taken were not acceptyd, the biſſhop off Verona was thought moſte meatyft, beyng for hys old deſerts to both prynces, as long as he wold in that place where he myght do them ſervyſable pleaſure, as ytt was to be thought gratefull to them bothe, and countyd for hys goodnes the beſt biſſhop of Italye: ſo thatt, all thynges conſydered, in mattiers off the churche to entreate wyth thyſe prynces none

was thought lyke; whereapon the pope bound hym to take thys jornaye w^t me for thys purpose, and thys bonde, amongst other, I rehearfyd unto hym when I moved hym to go unto the Kyng. To the whiche he made answer, yff there were none other bond nor respect in thys mattier butt off god, knoweng matters as he doythe, and feyng what inconvenyentes myght followe, yff they were nott att last well acceptyd, befyde the servyce he hath ever owed to the kyng and love toward me, knoweng whatt comforth ytt myght be to all partes, yff my trew and faythfull dealyng were well intymate to the kyng, he wold be content att all tymes, the waye onys founde afore, howe wyth commodytie he myght comme to the kynges presence to take thys charge apon hym.

Thus, my lord, yow maye nowe perceve, thatt yff I had any part that mynde thatt the kynges procureng agaynst me doyth shewe hym to be perswaded I have, ytt could nott be possyble I could have any confydence to attempt any meddlyng with hys grace under such manier; butt bycause nor my confydence nor affectionate mynd yett ys nott taken awaye, therefore thys I do declare unto yow by thyse letters, to the entent yow may intymate the

fame to hys grace. And now yow fe by a greate proffe whatt my mynd ys, yow may also see howe all fuspition may nott alonlye be clered, meny thynges apeacyd thatt peradventure myght torne to gretter troble, butt also meny thynges be brought to lyght to the kynges more affured honour and wealth then ony thyng ys, I thynke, thought off hitherto make for the fame; for all this I dare promesse to followe, yff the bysshop be hard wyth thatt mynde as he ys sent and content for to go.

Other declaracyon off my mynd by letters I entend nott to make, then my letters, agreyng wyth myn actes sent afore, do make testymonye, and thatt the bysshop, which ys prevye to all, maye better declare presentlye; butt thys I wyll saye, yff I bare in ony part that mynde the kynges act agaynst me doyth showe hys grace ys persuadyd I shuld have, fuerlye I wold never a done, as I have in all myn actes and proceffys, by letters made the kynge and yow prevye unto them: thys I dydd att my furst comyng to Rome, and the cause off my legacye nowe, and the cause of my comyng unto thise partes. Such advyses rebells be nott wont to do; and I know att Rome, yff ony man had bene premyate to do hym fervyce, none could have done more; in so moche thatt men

judged me halffe a rebell to god and my contrye, bycause I wold not assent to dyvers thynges thatt had made lyttyll to the kynges quyetnesse, but spe-
cyallye haveng in my hond those wrytyngs, thatt, putt forth, peradventure myght a caused most trouble off all; thys instantlye beyng desyred off those which had in a maner authoritye to commaunde, and yeatt ever fyndyng meanys thatt they never cam to their fyght nor honds, and to thys hower suppressyng the fame: lykewyse yff one that had mynde off rebellion wold do the same, bethynk yow well; but as I fay, my purpose ys nott to justyfye my mynd by these letters att thys tyme in mo actes then one, whiche ys off this present tyme; nor yff ytt be nott justified by the present testyfycation of such a one as the bysshop ys, thatt knoweth them, assuredlye I do never entend hereafter to labour ony more herein, afore god, and all men thatt wyll be indyfferent judges off the truthe, I wyll not doubt at all tymes to justyfye my selff to god and the catholyke church for negligent service in this behalffe.

Nowe I wyll saye no more, butt pray all myghthie god to putt that in the Kynges mynd thatt may be moste to hys honour and wealth, grace to followe the fame, and to take from all other suche occasyon whye

they shuld thynke, yff they serve the churche accord-
yng to theyr conscyence, they shuld be constrayned
to offend the kyng, and so herebye to separate the
servyce off the one from the other; whiche fuerlye
to no man shuld be more greffe then unto me, butt
godds pleasur be fulfylled above all, to whome nowe
I commytt yowe.

REG. CAR^{LIS} POLUS LEGATUS.



M. THROCKMORTON TO R. MORRISON.

*All mio car^{mo} quanto Fratello, Misser Ricardo Morisono. In casa dell Ill^{mo} S^{or} prive seal,
Lorde Cromwel, Londra.*

INTIER belovyd Mr Moreson, w^t harte fatutacyon. Ye schall understonde, that at the 13 day off thys presente y arryvvd here; and be the wey y cowlde nother wryte to my lorde nor youe for lake off leyser, enfuryng youe that, nottwithstondyng my late arryvall here, yett, as for the fors and strenght of my pore carcas wolde extend, I lost no tyme nyght nor day; butt fyche weys, wether, and horfys were never feyn, and att my arryvall y fonde my mast^r in a fowle arrey and vere straynege apparell to my nye, and, to sey the treuth, that y was full fore to see; butt where as ys no remedy folly yt ys to be fore: butt more foryer y ame that, unleffe god provyde farr bett^r than mans reson can imagyn, he ys lyeke to have grett trobull w^t hys red hatt; and as yet y can in no wey

cause hyme to inclyne to no parte off my refnabull requests: as for concernyng hys commyng into france and flanders, that legacy was depeyntyd to hym before that y departyd thence frome youe; butt, y feere, cumyng aft^r the manar that he doth, ther wyl be no colloquium grantyd off the kyngs parte: hys legacy doth extende for all parts beyonde the monteyns for compofytyon off pefse generally, and allfo oppreffyon off herefys; and for the turks cumyng in Chryftedome, and for all other matters confernyng the chyrche, y prey god that he folowe nott fo myche thefe mens hye devyfys of honor, ladyng on hys fcholders, for there ambycyon, and proffett, more than he can or fchall be abull to bryng to paffe: ye know whatt y mean; for, thoght he mean never fo well and godly, yett what they mean yt ys harde to know: for me, they fchall not perfwade butt y^t they mean theyre owyn proffett, cloke hyt as craftly as they cane.

Y wolde my maft^r had fum off my gioles and fufpyfyos nature in hyme confernyng theyre parts; butt feurly lett them mean as they wyll, he means all to the beft and to the honor, off god and hys chyrche, w^t owte dyffymulacyon, covetes, or ambycyon: fo that y thnyke feurly god wil

well accepte hys intente ; butt yett howe he schall speed in all these grett enterprysys y am in dowte, and so have y tolde hyme playnly, as hyt doth be comme for the fydeyte y bere to hyme; for to sey y wyll dyffemble w^t hyme or ony man, y wynott, as y trust ye can testefye off my natur fullwell therin, that where y love y most neds be playne : y have allso declaryd aft^r fyche faschyon, my lorde youre mast^rs fyngular grett goodnes and kyndnes towarde my masters frynds, w^t a feure testymonyall off that fyngular benyvolence and goodnes schewyd to me for my mast^rs sake, that, unleffe my mast^r were a stoke or a stone, he cannott chiose butt bere hyme harte affectyon, as feythfully y ensure youe he doth, whyche, aft^r long commynycatyon, be entere and harte faschyon off spekyng he manyfestly declaryd, seyng that, whatt chiance so ev^r sholde happe, he myght be affuryng off hym to hys power to shewe hyme that fryndly harte and plesure that he, be hys kyndnes and goodnes schewyd toward hym, hath deservyd, with forther words to the same tenor that at thys tyme y wynott reherse.

Butt brevely to conclude, y thynke feurly my lorde youre mast^r may affurydly rely off my mast^rs harte to hyme as off ony frynde he hath in england; so that y

have putt my mast^r in thys mynde, that, in case the Kyngs hyghnes wyll wyght faffe to sende ony into flanders, that yff he can obteyne (my lorde hymfelfe beyng so plesyd) y thynke he wolde be most best contenteto speke w^t hyme off ony other: whych, standyng thyngs as they do, feurly y thynke yt were so best. Y prey god redres all thyngs to hys plesure, for fore y wolde be, on feyth and trauth, that wors scholde cum to my lorde youre mast^r than to my selffe for the grett kyndnes and benevolence y have fonde in hys lorde shype: and, as touchyng youre gentylnes, do nott thynke butt as sone y scholde forgett my selffe as to forgett [so] lovyng a sthomake declaryd so manifestly and purly, in so straynege and dayngerus tyme, as youe dyd yours to me: wherfor, yff ev^r y dyd ony sparke off plesure or kyndnes to ony in my lyffe, that ev^r y toke ony cownforte off after, y ensure youe feythfully y thynke yt that (lyttell thoght hyt were) that y schewyd to youe, wheroff y more regoise inwardly than off onythyng y dyd toward ony man feth y coulede perseve what frendshype ment.

And thys to conclude, in fewe words, whatte so ev^r chiance my harte ye arr seure off whyle lyffe lasts; and y trust my reporte of your lovyng harte to my mast^r ys no lesse acceptyd than hyt deservyd: wher-

fore y fey no more here in, butt lovyngly exhorte youe to fele styll as ye do that lovyng instynct off nature that ys in yowe; that is to fey, being in cafe and place to schewe plesure w^t owte youre owyn hurte, nott to w^drawe, for so where other men gett money youe gett mens harts: thys betakynge youe as my selffe to the preservacyon of god, desyryng youe to have me hartly comendyd to mast^r steward; also, to my brother, my fyfter, and all my newewys, desyryng them to pardon me that y wryte nott nowe for lake off tyme. Y thynke my lorde wyll schewe youe my lett^r y sende hyme; in cafe he so do, y prey youe wryte howe hytt ys takyn, and whatt ye thynk in hytt: y trust ye schall se att lest, thoght hyt be rudly wrytten, that y do nott dysssemble: *vale amatiss^e* *Morisone.*

Totus tuus MICHAEL

THROKEMERTON.



M. THROCKMORTON TO CROMWELL.

Indorsed "Mr Throckmerton xix^o of August". Addressed "To the ryght honorable and my syngular good lorde, Lorde prive seale: Lorde Cromwell".

RYGH T honorabull and my syngular good lorde: my dewte rememberyd, yt may plese the fame to understonde, that where as y ame feure y^t long before thys tyme ye have lokyd for my presence, acordyng to my wrytyng frome rome; yett, in so muche the effecte off my retorne dependyd most on hyme to whome I was sente, and partly apou youre lordschyps answer to my seyde letters, whyche y lokyd for att my arryvyng in Parres, and frome thence allso to have byne dyspachyd be thys man: butt y beyng resolute off never nother thoght youre sylence to have byne as not regardyng whether y hade cum or nott; orr ells as a consentyng to my remaynyng w^t hyme to whome y was sente tyll y knewe forther off youre plesure: butt confyderyng nowe that my prynce takes hyme, as y

underſtonde, forr a myche gretter rebell, than other he or y wolde have thaught att hys departyng frome rome, y thaught hytt expedyente to declare to youre lordſchype, forr my dyschiarge, more att large the cauſe off the ſtay off my retorne: pleyng the ſame to underſtonde that fyrſt att pares, ſeeng youre lett's came nott, y requeryd off hyme my dyspachement, accorrdyng to hys promes to me att rome; apan hoope wheroff, as ye know, y compenyd hyme to parys. Where, as ſone as he arryvyd, he made me thys anſower: ſeyng fyrſt, that ſeeyng y had no anſower frome youe, ytt ſemyd ye paſſyd nott grettly on my retorne, and immedyatly aſkyd me whether y thaught hyt nott a conveyente tyme for hyme to ſende me now w^t ony lett's off credence to the Kyngs grace, who, he had ryght parfett knolege, toke hyme (as he feyd) ondefervyd for ſo greves a nadverſare and rebell, as he wolde never have thaught, fyndyng no cauſe whye in all hys actes norr purpoſys: further more, that hys grace toke all thyngs to the contrare that he ever dyd orr wrote; and here apan delayed my dyspachement tyll he came to ſum fettlyng place.

And ſhortly aft^r we arryvyd in cambrey, and there ſeeng hyme fellffe, throught the kynges

procurement, in grett daynger, thoght hyt nother tyme nor place conveyentte to confer further confernyng my dyspachement: and thys y, dayle abydyng youre lett's and hys anfower, have thys contynewyd w^t hyme hetherto, y trust for the best, as y supposse youre lordschype sellffe wyll sey the same, all thyngs heraffter confyderyd; forr sone after hys arryvall in thys towne he began then, more than ever before, to declare me the effect of hys legacyon; whyche, he seyde, had that grownde that, reservyng the dyfference off the opyneon confernyng the unyte off the chyrche, wherin he sayde, that for feere, favor, or love off any creature levyng he wold never change; butt, in the rest, he seyde, he was never that favoryd more the kyngs trewe honor and welth, nor that cowlde do more to the mayntenance and furtherance theroff than he both dyd, schewyd and purpofyd in hys whole legacyon to do.

And therunto he began to schewe howe, yff he had bynemyndyd to the contrare, what occasyons he had to hynder the same, both now be fors of hys legace, and in thys specyally, whyche they cowlde never perfwade hyme to; whyche was that, att the poynte off hys departyng, they wolde have had hyme to have lefte the booke in the poops hands, who, in hys absence,

would have putt hyt forth and publyshyd hyt: and here was made fychē vyolente instance that w^towte fors ther cowlde no more be schewyd. Wherin, when they sawe he used so styffe and obstinate refystance, alleggyng dyvers causys ther fore, and thys inspecyall, howe hytt myght be hurtfull to the cause, yff the kyngs grace were inclyned to retorne, so to be irretate be fychē a booke putt forth in mean tyme, when he wente abowte reconcylyacyon: butt yett w^t y^t they wold in no ways be satysfied, un lesse he wolde putt them in sum hoope thatt, att hys retorne, in case he retornyed desperatte off the Kyngs mynde, he would be then contente that they scholde do whatt they and he thoght best.

And thereupan they were content to deferrall thyng to hys retorne, and the sensurs lyekewyse whyche he nowe ageyn refusyd the exercyse theroff agenst the Kyngs grace; and, in conclusyon, as tochyng the matters he had to intrett w^t the pryncys to whome hys legacyon was dyrectyd, he affyrmed, w^t constant and ferverte asseveracyon, that he never thaught nor mente to intreatt w^t them butt that scholde be most for the Kyngs honor, yff hys gracys mynde dyd ony thyng inclyne to that parte that other pryncys do tochyng the unyte off the chyrche, that hyt myght seme most

to cum be the request and defyer of other pryncys for the welth off chrystendome, and that they scholde demaunde the same off the Kyngs grace be request and preyarr: and thys he feyd he dyd the more be cause off the vyolence that the peple had ufyd off late in that behalffe; and for thys on grett cause, he feyd, he defyrvyd the byschoppe off Verona to accompany hym in hys legacyon, as a instrument most metest to thys purpose, both for the grett favor he hath ever byn in w^t the frenche Kyng, and owre Kyng lyekwyse, throt the good serves and plesure he had don for them both in tyme past, when he was in offece and place where hys serves and frendshype was gratfull to them both: allso for the good prattes and wysdome and good opyneon the feyd byschoppe was for most of all knowyng in governance off hys byshapryke; so supposyng hym, for these forseyd causys, the more meter parson to intreate thes matters be towyxt these pryncys: be whyche forseyd weyse he thocht the Kyng myght, w^t hys most honor and feurte and welth off hys contrey, have byne reconfyld to all partes.

And forr thys he feyd he was nowe callyd and confyne as rebell; butt for conclusyon he feyd that he feryd lest, att the last, the Kyngs con-

tynuyng hys perfecutyon in publyfchyng hyme as hys rebell to all pryncys, that he fcholde be conft raynyd, both before all pryncys and in face of all chyftendome, to declare hyme fellfe whatt a rebell hys ys, and for whatt caufys: wherin he feyd y^t, for hys owyn parte, yff he faught honor he wolde defyer no more than to make hytt be openly knowyn aft^r whatt falfchyon hys rebels from hys grace. Thys y nowe declare to youre lordfchype, to the intende ye may fe whatt fmall hoope or caufe y had off my dyfpachement, butt myche more occafyon to tare my tyme to be more refolute of hys mynde than fo fodenly and raully to departe w^towte other answer orr any thyng of moment: as nowe, y truft, ye fchall perfeve be thys foloyng y was nott defevyd in my opyneon; for, thogh ye had never fo many fpyes in thefe partes, y ame well feure ye fcholde nott (nor as yett have had) any trewe knolege off thyngs done here; y mean commen matters, myche fo leffe off thefe matters fecrette, as partlye ye may perseve be that before, and more be thys that foloyth.

Ande fyrft ys, that thys man ys revokyd a geyne in to ytale, agenft the generall councell whyche ys poyntyd to be the fyrft off November: allfo y perfeve the poope was mynded that, lyeke as he hath fente

indolgence throught all Chrystendome to prey for the delyverance off the daynger off the Tūrcke, so in lyke maner he wyll fende throghe all Chrystendome indolgence to prey for the Kyngs grace with the state off englonde to retorne to the unyte off the Chyrche, reherfying whatt chiarytabull meanes (as they fey) hath byne used to that intent; whyche takyng non effecte, they intende herin to descrybe many off the Kyng's acts, and for theyre justyfycatyon therin they intende at hys retorne to putt the booke in prynte, yff he wyll consent therto, as yt wyll be harde for hyme to denye, for the grett confydence they have therin, more than in all the rest, for the vertewys lyffe and other grett qualytes they have consevyd off the wryter theroff.

And thys poynte, tochyng the grettyft effecte off my commycyon, y thought hyt therfore most necessarye to advertes youe theroff; specially considering the schorte departyng off thys man apon retorne, as ye se hangs both devolgatyng off the senders, puttyng forth off hys booke, sendyng allso off newe Imbassytors to all chrysten pryncys, yff he refuse to take on hyme to commende un to them the cause off englonde; considering forthermore the grett desyer y suppose ye have for trewe knolege off

hys mynde and acts in thys legace. Y enseure youe my taryeng w^t hyme att thys tyme may stande youe in no lyttell styde; and herin, to be playne w^t youre lordschype, on thyng makes nott only me, butt many mor grettly a stonyd to se the grett dyllygence and procurement many weyes off the Kyng's be hallffe, to the utter ruyne and destruc^tyon off thys man, whyche dayle cummys to hys knolege dyvers weyes; and yett nottw^tstandyng all fycher irrytacyon, he contynewys and persevers (as playnely doth apere) in the same love and constant mynde to the Kyngs honor and welth that he hath ever hetherto schewyd; declynyng to no mans requests or desyers, in ony thyng as yett that myght putt hys grace to ony dys^thonor, hyndrance, or trouble: for yff hys mynde hade byne other weys, hyt wolde have byne harde to have clokyd hytt att thys tyme: whyche makes many men so myche the more to marvell to se the Kyng's grace so hyle bente, rather to hys ruyne and destruc^tyon than to take sum wey to reconcyle hyme; thocht y se that vere harde to be done, the cause standyng as hytt doth.

Wherefore nowe, these premysses confyderyd, youre lordschype may best thynke whatt ys best to be don, confyderyng, as ferr as y can se, that

parte to be desperate confernyng your lordſchypps parſon to ſpeke w^t hym, as y wrote to the ſame in my lett^rs from Rome; and as for any other parſon that myght helpe for thys behallffe y cannot well fynde; for he muſt be ſyche a won that wyll be feythfull to youe, and grett in hys opyneon w^t hym. Y have partly ſchewyd my mynde to maſter Crutten as confernyng that matter; wherfore, conſyderyng the weght off theſe matters, and howe they ſtande, me thynks the redreſſyng theroff requeryth a gretter prudence and more pregnant wytte than myne.

Remyttyng, therefore, to your lordſchypps prudence and wyſdome to devyſe whatt ſhall lyeke youe beſt to be don herin, truſtyng nowe ye do playnly perſeve my taryeng to be more profytabull than my retornyng cowlde have byne any weys; wherfore, nowe y deſyer to knowe youre pleſore herin, truſtyng both the Kyngs grace, and youre good lordſchype alſo, wyll no other weys take me than my deeds hetherto hath, and hereaft^r ſhall, as occaſyon cummys, ſchewe them ſellffe in any thyng that y may do my prynce and youe ſerves and pleſure, prompte and redy: wherfore yff hytt lycke youre lordſchype that y may be informyd off youre mynde be wrytyng, ytt may lyeke youe to cauſe that letter to be delyveryd

to maſt^r Hutten, whome y have informyd howe he may cauſe hytt to be ſente faffe to my hands: thys remyttynge all thyngs to your lordſchyps moſt pregnante wyſdome, whome Jhu preſerve to hys pleaſure: att Lege, the 20 day off auguſt 1537.

Att youre lordſchypp's commandment,
to hys lyttell power, MICHAEL

THROKEMERTON.

Yt may pleſe youre lordſchype to underſtonde that, when y wrotte theſe letters, I hadd thaught thys mans departyng ſcholde have byne lenger delayed; who nowe, y parceve, departs hence w^t in theſe iiij or iiij dayſe: and be fore thys tyme we had no ferten knolege theroff, nor yett y no convenyente meſſynger that y myght truſt to wryte by tyll nowe be the berer heroff to maſt^r Hutten: deſyryng youre lordſchyppe, therefore, to have me herin excuſyd.



Copy of a Paper, without Date or Endorsement.

Apparently the Draft of a Letter to Pole.

WHEREAS I perceive, by your letter sent by this berer, dated xvth daye of July, that it is not out of your remembrance the unkyndnes I rekened in you, at suche tyme your sentence was required in the Kinges matter. At that tyme, and nowe further, you feare (I perceive) that I wold take farre more displeasure that you have done nowe as you have done. The truth is, I knewe nothyng of the effect of your booke when I received your letter, whiche made me greatly to doubt of that whiche afore I was in great hope of; and, for to be out of doubt, I brake with my lorde prevy Seal, to whom you are asmoche bounden as if you were hys nyghest kynsman. He advised me to speke with the Kynges Highnes, but brake nothyng of the matter hymself: and so, assone as tyme convenient served, I brake with his grace; who, I assure you, declaired a greate parte of your booke so to me at length, that it made my poore harte so to lament,

that if I had lost mother, wiff, and children, it could no more have done; for that had bene but naturall. But you to shewe yourself so unnaturall to so noble a prynce, of whom, you can not denye, next god, you have received all thynges. And for our familie, whiche was cleane troden under foote, he sett up nobully, whiche sheweth his charitie, his clemence, and his mercye. And thus, alas! that ever I shuld se the daye you shuld sett forth the contrary, or trust so moche to your owne wytt above all the rest of your contrey. And of hym whiche you required shuld reade your booke, by whom you shall not onely perceive his mynde, but the mynde of all our contrey; by the whiche, if any grace be in you now, you will turne into the right waye. And then may we reken it was the will of god that your ingratitude shuld shewe the mekenes of our prince, who hath borne your flaunders so patiently, that the poorest in our contrey could not have done. And further contented of his greate benignitie, that we that be your freinds shuld instruct you of that whiche moveth us, as I knowe full prudently they have done, whiche be lerned. As for me (whiche lernyng lacketh) could never by any reason conceive that lawes made by man were of suche streyngth, but

that they myght be undone agayne by man (els god defend) for that whiche semeth polityke at one tyme, by abusyon at an other tyme proveth the contrary. Therfor, gentill Reignald, let no scrupulositie so embrace your stomake but that we, which be so knytt in nature, and so happely borne under so noble a prynce, maye so joyne together to serve hym as o^r bounden dutie so requireth; and for that, what so ever parte you take, shall I spend the best bloode in my bodye (god willing) with whose grace, you takyng that waye, we shall never be dissevered.

An other thyng, to me incredible, I here; whiche is that you, by reason of a brief sent to you from the bushope of Rome, shuld be resident with hym this wynter. If you shuld take that waye, then farewell all my hope! Lernyng you may well have, but doubtles no prudence nor pitie, but sheweth yourself to ronne from one mischief to another. And then farewell all bounds of nature, not onely of me but of all myne, orells, in stede of my blessing, they shall have my curffe. But utterly out of hope I can not be, that ever suspition should so reign in you, that you wold so highly offend god to lose the benefits of so noble a prince, your natyff contrey and hole familie, without the devill have tomoche power over you. From

the whiche to kepe you I shall as hartely praye, as I
wold be partner of the joyes of heaven, whiche christ
make us partakers of,

At Bisham, the xiiijth daye of September.



T. STARKEY TO CROMWELL.

*Indorsed "Thoms Sterkey." Addressed "To the
Ryght Worschypful Maystur Cromwel, Secretory
to the Kynges Hyghnes."*

YR, yf I myght wel have come to you, I wold not now have usyd thys boldnes in wrytyng; but syth I was wyth you last, I am, I can not tel how, flypt in to a lytyl ague, wherfor I am constraynyd to wryte thes few wordys for the quyetyng of my mynd: albehyt I dowte no thyng at al but that the kyngys hyghnes, as I perceyvyd by your gudnes and most lovyng instructyon, toke wel fuch communycatyon as I lately had wyth hys grace concernyng the superstycyonst blyndnes of thes munkys; yet, for a ful and uttur eradycatyon of any fuch suspycyon apon his gracys behalfe toward me, hys true and faythful servant, I shal besech you, for the gudnes that I have playnly perceyvyd in you toward me, that hyt wyl plese you, at your convenyent lesur, to rede thys lytyl scrole inclofyd herin, wych I

wrote to you at such tyme as you delyveryd me your boke in your study, and had thought to have defyryd you, at the same tyme, to overrede the same scrole; but fearyng to trowbul you wyth such tryfulls, I have hytherto hyt deferryd, but now I shal besech you to take so much payne as to overrun hyt at your lefor, to the intent that you of your gudnes, yf you thynke convenyent, may more certaynly and assurydly instructe the kyng of my judgement and mynd in the ground and fundacyon of thes lately defynyed causys, ye, and of many other of no smal weyght.

I wryte un to you, in the same scrole, the bothom of my hart wyth the ground of my judgement, wherin yf I erre I wyl stond at your correction: to you I am open and playn. I promys you that you shal never fynd me faynyd man; and of thys one thyng I schal assure you, that al the kyngs trefore hepyd apon a roke schold not bryng me to serve hym in any cause except my judgement, formyd by some groundyd knolege, schold serve me to the same; for I am no slave to gold, silvur, nor trefore, no nor yet to no wordly honowre: to these thynges my effectys dyd serve when I was more yong, as many men dow now when they be old; but

now syr, by the gudnes of god and benefyte of let-
turys, I have got a nother jugement, the wych, my
truft is in god, duryng my life fchal never be plukkyd
out of my brest; and much more furely hyt fchal be
confyrmyd, yf I may perceyve hereaftur that by
yourys hyt fchal be approvyd.

Wherfor, syr, I fchal befech you, by al fuch
benevolence as you have borne to me, that hyt
may plefe you, yf you may take occafyon to
fpeke wyth the kyngys hyghnes of fo pore a man
as I am, to ftablyfh in hys grace fuch opynyon
of me as my hart doth deferue, wythout the wych,
playnly to fay to you, I can never with franke mynd
and fre hart ferve hys hyghnes in no caufe that he
fchal hereaftur cummande me; for to hys sevyce I am
movyd by love and faythful obfervaunce, and by no
wordly benefyte nor wordly advancemente; and wyth
fuche mynde I juge kyngys mete to be fervyd, as I
am fure you dow, and therfor I fchal befech you, as
you fchal fee tyme and occafyon, thys affect of my
hart and facyon of my mynd to fet before the kyngys
hyghnes: the wych, I am fure and certayn, when his
gudnes fchal fee, hys hyghnes fchal never conceyve
any fuch onworthy fufpicyon of me, and to the hart
and mynd that I dow and ever fchal bere, fo dyfcon-

venyent, in the wych thyng what you schal deserve of me you know bettur, and bettur can conceyve, than I can by wrytyng expresse.

Syr, yff hyt schal appere to your wyfdome and gudnes toward me to schow the Kyng the scrole, to the intent that hys grace may, for the effecte of myn owne hart, wryten and expressyd with myn owne hand, I wold be glad; for as much as, at such tyme that I spake to hys hyghnes touchyng thys ground and fundatyon of my jugement, wherby I wold, and dyd take away the grete ground of raynoldys folyfch and superstycyousely framyd confeyce, hys hyghnes dyd not gretely approve hyt, faying hyt was not drawen out of scrypture; but, truly, I have drawen thys ground out of scrypture, and out of the depenes of phylosophy; but thys I leave to your prudence and gudnes: the mean tyme I schal wraftul wyth thys lytyl ague, trustyng in god schortly to overcome hyt, and so schortly to wayte apon you at home.

Syr, yf I may be so bold to besech you to kepe thys my desyre to your selfe, you schal gretely bynd me to you; for loth I wold be that any other man schold here, or perceyve that the kyng have me in suspycyon of any dyffymulatyon wyth hym, the wych thyng I per-

ceyvyd manyfestely he fearyd in Maystur pole : but, I assure you, hys grace nede not so to dow; for apou the erth lyvyth not a more syncere and pure hart then hath mastur pole, and lesse spottyd wyth dyf-fymulatyon : therfor, what so ever M^r Pole thynkyth in thes causys, the Kyng schortly and playnly schal know. I was yet never bounden to you for any thyng more then for thys; that you dyd so playnly open to me the suspycyon of the Kyng; for by the mean therof I trust hys grace schal come to the playn knolege of my hart and mynd, and I trust also to hys gracyouse and true conceyvyng therof, playnly as I am, so schal appere; and thys I comyt you to the gracyouse kepyng of our lord, besechyng you to pardon me of thys importune boldnes, and over bold request.

I trust I schal not trowbul you many tymys hereaftur with such kynd of desyrys, yf hyt may please you now, of your synguler gudnes, to stabyl the Kyng in such opynyon of me, as my faythful hart and reverent love and observance to hys hygnes doth not unjustly deserve; the wych affect, now only by wordys expreffyd, I schal labur al the rest of my lyfe by dedys truly and manifestely to declare. Wryten at london, in my lady of Salys-

burys place at dowgate, in such tyme as I was wras-
telyng wyth my fevur, thys fryday.

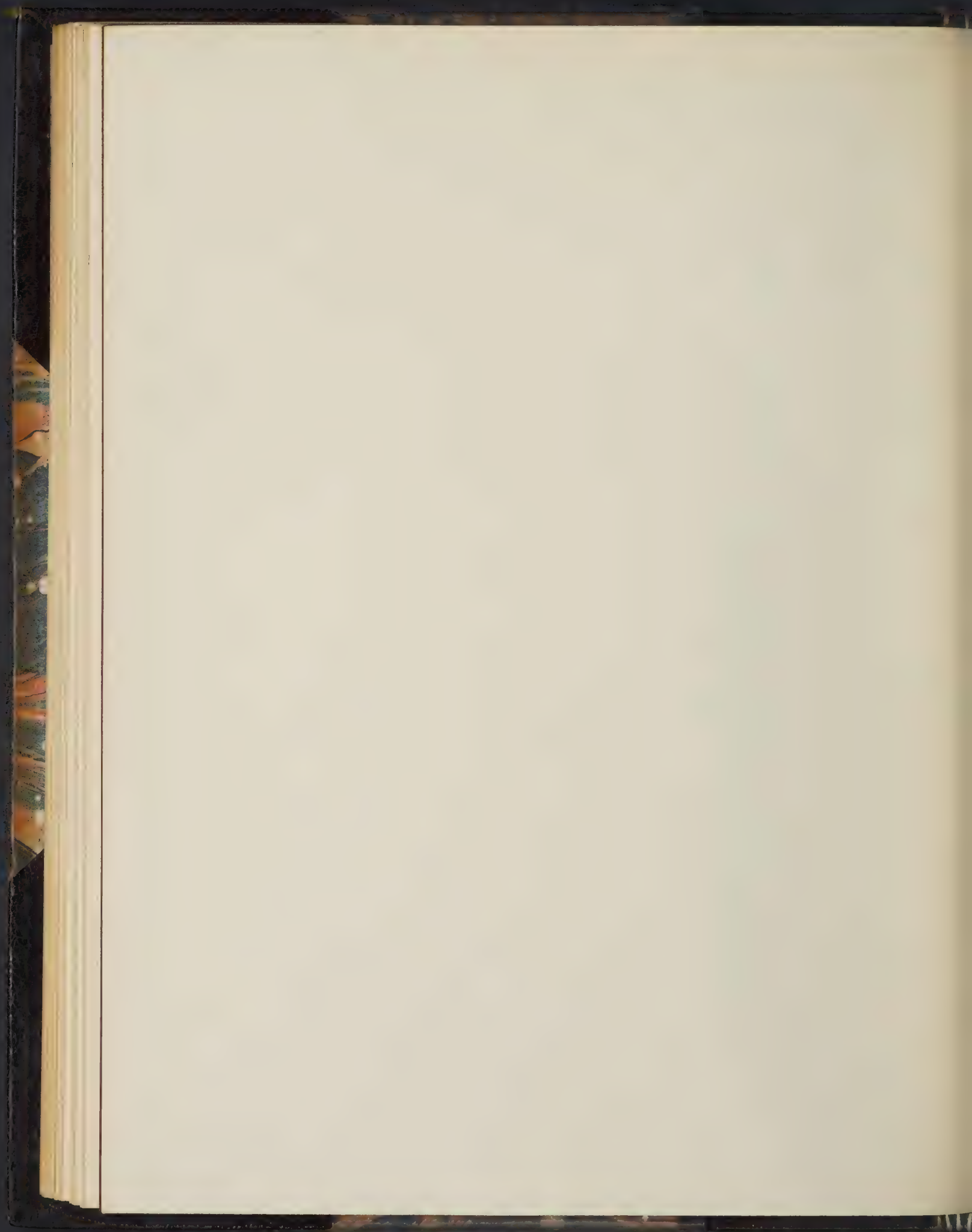
By yourys mostt affury

dly, THOMAS STARKEY.

FINIS.









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